

November 18, 2013

Millennium Bulk terminals-Longview EIS
C/o ICF International
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550
Seattle, WA 98104

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the scope for the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals Longview (MBTL) proposal.

I live in Cheney, Washington, one of a number of small towns and cities lying along the rail transportation corridors that would be impacted in a variety of ways were this project and/or similar projects, including the proposed Morrow Pacific Coal Export Terminal Project and the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) Project, to be built.

The primary purpose of all three of the aforementioned projects is to enable the shipment of coal from the Powder River Region of Montana and Wyoming to markets in Asia. In each case, impacts resulting from these projects would include the following connected actions: increases in 1) Powder River coal mining, 2) the frequency and number of trains passing through existing rail corridors between the mine sites and the terminal facilities and 3) marine traffic on the Lower Columbia River, through West Coast ports and across the Pacific Ocean.

In addition, burning the vast amounts of coal involved would contribute substantially to release of carbon dioxide, mercury, particulates and other pollutants that poison air and water and contribute to global warming.

Unless the impacts I have listed above are addressed, the scope of the DEIS will be completely inadequate in enabling a decision maker to be fully informed about the potential environmental consequences of approving a permit(s) for the proposed project. In addition, there must be analysis of the cumulative impacts that would result if all of the three above-mentioned projects are completed, to include the impacts of existing rail traffic, throughout the transportation corridor between the coal fields and the terminal facilities.

Please scope the DEIS as follows to provide the information NEPA requires to be available to a properly informed decision maker:

- Analyze the impacts of project-related noise; diesel emissions; traffic congestion; emergency response delays; potential for train/vehicle collisions; federal, state and local costs for rail crossing improvements (particularly the need to reduce at-grade crossings); emission of coal dust; and the risk and impact of train derailments throughout the transportation corridor.

- Include a comparative analysis of how the alternative coal sources for Asia (e.g., Australia) under a “No Action Alternative” would impact transportation options and the pollution resulting from burning the coal versus the use of Powder River coal. This should include a clear comparison of both climatic and atmospheric effects.
- Analyze impacts to the marine (Pacific Ocean, Strait of Juan de Fuca) and riverine (Columbia River) environments of shipments from the GPT, Morrow Pacific and Millennium Bulk Terminal Longview projects, including potential effects on fish and marine mammals.

All analyses should address the cumulative aspect of impacts resulting from past, present and reasonably foreseeable future events contributing to or intensifying the levels of impact that could result from the proposed projects.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Sincerely,

John M. Taves
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Cheney, WA 99004